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SCENT LURE DISPENSER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to scent lures, and more particularly to an improved method and system to dispense the scent lure.

Discussion of the Prior Art

It has long been known that animals, such as game animals like deer, elk and bear, are naturally drawn to certain natural scents, such as the urine or various hormones of the same species of animal. Examples include doe estrous, doe urine, buck urine, skunk urine, fox urine, and bobcat urine or any other appropriate game scent. People often use these scents to attract the animals into their vicinity for hunting, photography or observation.

Typically, the scent is in a liquid form and may be used in any of a variety of ways. One method is to pour the liquid scent lure onto absorbent pads such as felt, which are then hung on branches or twigs. The scent is allowed to vaporize into the ambient air to attract the animals. Another method is to pour the liquid scent lure onto trees or on the ground at either real or artificially created scrapes where a horned

1 animal might mark his territory. Liquid scents may also be
2 dripped in a controlled manner on either real or artificial
3 scrapes.

4 Devices to dispense scent lures are well known in the
5 prior art. See generally, U.S. Pat. No. 5,456,036 to Butz;
6 U.S. Pat. No. 5,555,663 to Burgeson; U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,842
7 to McLearnan; U.S. Pat. No. 5,987,800 to Regan; U.S. Pat. No.
8 6,174,251 to Lemote; U.S. Pat. No. 6,038,804 to Cuerrier; and
9 U.S. Pat. No. 6,199,311 to Foster.

10 Conventional methods of applying scents require the user
11 to walk to a given location and apply the scent or scent-
12 dispensing device. This method requires the hunter to walk to
13 each location to be scented causing human scent and noise to
14 be introduced in all areas traversed. Human scent and noise
15 typically repel animals thus defeating the intended purpose of
16 the lure.

17 Attempts are known in the prior art to dispense scent
18 lures within a given area without introducing undesirable
19 human scents in the process. These can include scented arrows
20 or exploding pellets fired from a pistol designed for that
21 use. Here too are disadvantages in that they are complicated,
22 expensive, non-reusable, create unnecessary and unwanted
23 noise, require additional equipment, or require a large amount
24 of force to break open a pellet.

25 For example, the Foster device requires a biodegradable,
26 non-reusable pellet to be propelled with a force sufficient to

1 break open on impact. This device requires some sort of
2 additional device to propel the pellet, a hard surface to
3 strike it upon, or both.

4 Unfortunately, an inexpensive, simple, reusable, easy to
5 retrieve, and versatile scent lure dispenser that addresses
6 these mentioned deficiencies is unknown in the prior art.
7 Thus, there is a need for an improved scent lure dispenser to
8 overcome the disadvantages found in the prior art.

9

10 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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12 Accordingly, the present invention provides an improved
13 scent lure dispenser. It has many advantages and novel
14 features not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even
15 implied by any of the prior art scent lure dispensers.

16 One embodiment of the present invention generally
17 comprises a scent lure dispenser made of wood or plastic or
18 other materials approximately 2 to 3 inches in diameter
19 comprising a center axis, two hemispherical body members, each
20 having a planar flange extending along and attached to their
21 outer periphery, a releasable means to couple the body members
22 by their flanges, and a means along the flanges' outer
23 peripheries to form an airtight seal against one another, one
24 body member also having scent openings on its flange within
25 the means to form an airtight seal, and can include a scent
26 carrier such as felt disposed within the interior of one of
27 the body members.

1 Additional features of the present invention are also
2 present. The lure dispenser can be colored for various
3 appropriate applications such as green, orange, or camouflage.
4 Reflective material may be attached to the exposed surfaces of
5 the hemispherical body members to allow easy retrieval at
6 night. A tab can be added to allow easy hanging, such as off
7 a tree.

8 The means to couple the first and second body members in
9 one embodiment comprises a threaded bore on one flange along
10 the center axis and extended into the first body member
11 interior; and a threaded rod on the other flange adjacent to
12 and configured to couple to the threaded bore on the center
13 axis.

14 The means along the outer peripheries to form an airtight
15 seal against the second body member comprises an "O" ring and
16 annular grooves along the outer peripheries to receive the "O"
17 ring.

18 The present invention provides an improved scent lure
19 dispenser that can be easily, economically, and efficiently
20 manufactured and marketed.

21 The present invention provides an improved scent lure
22 dispenser that is of a durable, reliable construction,
23 reusable, easily retrievable day or night, and versatile.

24 The present invention is simple to use and deploy without
25 the user having to traverse to the area deployed, thereby not
26 introducing undesirable human scents or noise.

27 Other objects of the present invention will become more
28 apparent to persons having ordinary skill in the art to which

1 the present invention pertains from the following description
2 taken in conjunction with the accompanying figures.

3

4 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

5 The foregoing objects, advantages, and features, as well
6 as other objects and advantages, will become apparent with
7 reference to the description and figures below, in which like
8 numerals represent like elements and in which:

9 Figure 1 illustrates a perspective view of the scent lure
10 dispenser of the present invention in a closed position.

11 Figure 2 illustrates a side view of the scent lure
12 dispenser of the present invention in its open position.

13 Figure 3 illustrates a side view of the scent lure
14 dispenser of the present invention in its closed position.

15 Figure 4 illustrates a top view of a second flange for
16 the present invention.

17 Figure 5 illustrates top and side views of a scent
18 carrier (wick) of the present invention.

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20 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

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23 The present invention relates to an improved scent lure
24 dispenser (deployer or disperser) that can be easily,
25 economically, and efficiently manufactured and marketed. It
26 is durable, reliably constructed, reusable, easily retrievable
27 day or night, and versatile. The present invention is simple
28 to use and deploy without the user having to traverse to the

1 area deployed, thereby not introducing undesirable human
2 scents or noise.

3 Referring to the figures, one possible embodiment of the
4 present scent lure dispenser is illustrated generally as lure
5 dispenser 20. In a typical configuration, the lure dispenser
6 20 can be about two to three inches in diameter and can have a
7 first hemispherical body member 22 and a second hemispherical
8 body member 24. The goal is to make the lure dispenser 20
9 small enough to fit in your pocket, yet large enough to allow
10 accurate throwing. Further, the lure dispenser 20 is designed
11 to be scent free and to conserve a scent when not in use.

12 The lure dispenser 20 is versatile in that it can be
13 deployed in a number of manners such as throwing or merely
14 hanging from a tree. It is best to throw the lure dispenser
15 20 from the ground. The user should also use gloves to reduce
16 the amount of human scent introduced to the lure dispenser 20.

17 The first body member 22 has a first body member inner
18 surface 68 defining a first body member interior 70, a first
19 body member exposed surface 74 and a first outer periphery 40
20 that has a planar first flange 28 extending along and attached
21 to the first outer periphery 40. Also, the first body member
22 22 has a bore 42 located at a lure dispenser center axis 44
23 having a tab 30 extending therefrom. The tab 30 also has an
24 opening 32. The tab 30 can be used to assist in sealing the
25 scent as described below and the opening 32 allows easy
26 hanging of the lure dispenser 20 from a tree and the like if

1 desired. In the center of the first flange 28 and extending
2 into the first body member interior 70 along the lure
3 dispenser center axis 44 is a threaded bore 46. The first
4 flange 28 also has an first flange exposed surface 48. Near
5 the outside diameter of the first flange exposed surface 48 is
6 a first annular groove 34 for receiving a portion of an "O"
7 ring 36.

8 The second body member 24 has a second body member inner
9 surface 64 defining a second body member interior 72, a second
10 body member exposed surface 76, a second outer periphery 54
11 that has a planar second flange 50 extending along and
12 attached to the second outer periphery 54. Also attached to
13 the second body member 24 along the lure dispenser center axis
14 44 is a threaded rod 38 configured to screw into the threaded
15 bore 46 thereby securely holding or fastening the two body
16 members together. Many other possible configurations to hold
17 the two body members together are possible and the embodiment
18 shown in the figures is just one way to illustrate the
19 invention.

20 The features of the second flange 50 are more easily seen
21 in the top view of Figure 4. The figure shows the second
22 flange 50 can have a second annular groove 52 corresponding in
23 position to be adjacent to the "O" ring 36 (shown on the first
24 flange 28 in Figure 2) when the two body members are securely
25 held together, thereby creating an airtight seal to prolong
26 the life of the scent disposed within. Also, the second

1 flange 50 has a plurality of scent openings 56 arranged around
2 a second flange center opening 58 but within the "O" ring 36
3 diameter. For this illustrated embodiment, the scent openings
4 are circular. The threaded rod 38 extends through the center
5 opening 58 towards the threaded bore 46. The second flange 50
6 also has a slit 60 to allow wick replacement as discussed
7 below.

8 The second body member 24 can hold an easily removable
9 optional scent carrier such as an absorbent wick that allows
10 dispensing through gradual evaporation. A scent (not shown)
11 can be applied to the absorbent wick using a variety of
12 methods known in the art. The scents used can vary based on
13 the game the user wishes to lure. Some examples include any
14 pre-rut, rut, or post-rut scents, animal scents, as well as
15 other scents such as clover scents, apples, acorns, oranges,
16 cedar, earth. If the desired scent is a gel or solid, the use
17 of the scent carrier can be optional.

18 In the embodiment illustrated, a scent carrier is
19 included and is a wick 62 disposed within the second body
20 member interior 72. The wick 62 of the illustrated embodiment
21 is shown in Figure 5 though many possible wick shapes and
22 configurations are possible. The wick 62 has a wick slit 66
23 to allow easy insertion and removal into the second body
24 member 24 inner cavity. Once the wick 62 is inserted, and the
25 two body members arranged in the open position, the user using
26 gloved hands can apply the scent by an eyedropper or other

1 methods. The wick 62 can be made of felt, wool, cotton, or
2 other suitable materials.

3 The lure dispenser 20 can then be closed airtight by the
4 "O" ring 36 for transport to the intended site. Once there,
5 the user can unscrew the two body members allowing the scent
6 to escape via the scent openings 56 and placing the lure
7 dispenser 20 by either hanging or throwing. When use is
8 discontinued, the two body members can be screwed back
9 together to form an airtight seal to prevent unwanted
10 evaporation.

11 The lure dispenser 20 can be made from a variety of
12 materials such as plastic or wood. The lure dispenser 20 can
13 also be made in a variety of colors to alternately allow easy
14 retrieval day or night or camouflage depending on the user's
15 preferred application. In an embodiment where the lure
16 dispenser 20 is green or any number of camouflage patterns, it
17 can be hung from a tree near a scrape or thrown to an area
18 beneficial to hunting the game. An orange embodiment can be
19 thrown anywhere the game will intercept the scent.
20 Additionally, retrieval can be made easier, especially at
21 night, by adding reflective material known in the prior art.
22 The embodiment illustrated uses adhesive reflective dots 26,
23 which can be added in any number of configurations on the
24 first body member exposed surface 74 and second body member
25 exposed surface 76.

26 With respect to the above description, it is to be

1 realized that optimum dimensional relationships for the parts
2 of the invention, include variations in size, materials,
3 shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and
4 use. They are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one
5 skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those
6 illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification
7 are intended to be encompassed by the present invention. The
8 above-described embodiments of the invention are provided
9 purely for purposes of example. Many other variations,
10 modifications, and applications of the invention may be made.

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